

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3910

GENEVA FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, ELAB, IS
SUBJECT: MFA REACTION TO QUESTION OF COOPERATION WITH
ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

REF: A. STATE 123866 B. STATE 123379

1. LABATT CALLED JUNE 1 ON JOEL BAROMI, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION IN MFA, TO DISCUSS CONTENT OF REFTEL A REGARDING ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH THE ILO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS. BAROMI STATED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THE COMMITTEE OR HAVING AN ISRAELI DELEGATE MEET WITH COMMITTEE MEMBERS. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT LIKE THE IDEA THAT ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO REOPENING A CASE WHICH THE GOVERNING BODY HAD ALREADY CONSIDERED CLOSED AND TO INVITING AGAIN AN INVESTIGATOR TO COME TO ISRAEL AFTER HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN REBUFFED WHEN IT AGREED TO THE MISSION OF INQUIRY BY PROFESSOR UPSAHL.

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2. BAROMI THEN COMPLAINED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT OF U.S. INTENTION REGARDING CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO (REF B) APPEARED TO INDICATE A REVERSAL OF THE US POSITION, I.E., THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE US WOULD RETRAIN ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO EVEN IF IT WERE NOT FULLY SATISFIED ON PROCEDURAL AND POLICY CHANGES AND THAT IT WAS UPGRADING

THE IMPORTANCE WHICH IT ATTACHES TO THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. IN CONTRAST, ISRAEL SAW DECREASING UTILITY IN THE UN AND ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT ASKING ISRAEL TO COOPERATE AGAIN WITH A COMMISSION PREPARING NEW ACCUSATIONS AND CONDUCTING NEW INVESTIGATIONS MAY BE PART OF THE "PRESSURES" WHICH THE US IS BRINGING TO BEAR ON ISRAEL.

3. BAROMI PROMISED THAT HE WOULD RAISE OUR REQUEST WITH FOREIGN MINISTER AWLON, BUT THOUGHT IT UNLIKELY THAT THE PRESENT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WOULD MAKE A DECISION, LEAVING THIS TO WAIT UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE FORMED. WHILE HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WOULD SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGE ISRAELI POLICY TOWARD THE UN OR ITS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, HE DID NOT EXPECT THAT IT WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN THIS RESPECT THAN THE OUTGOING GOVERNMENT.

4. THE LABATT TOLD BAROMI THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO BASIC CHANGE IN US POLICY. WE HAD ALWAYS SAID THAT WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE THE RAISING OF ANY ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE VIOLATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS, PROVIDED THE LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR INVESTIGATING THE CASES BROUGHT BEFORE THE ILO WERE SCRUPULOUSLY FOLLOWED. WE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT IF THE ARABS FOLLOWED LEGAL PROCEDURES AND ASKED FOR AN INVESTIGATION WE WOULD ACCEPT SUCH PROCEDURES AND THEN ATTEMPT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE

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INVESTIGATION IS FAIR AND IMPARTIAL. THE ADMINISTRATION IS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO CHANGE ILO PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY OUR REMAINING IN THAT BODY. THIS WAS NOT A CHANGE OF POLICY ALTHOUGH OUR STANDARDS FOR REMAINING IN THE ILO MAY BE BECOMING MORE FLEXIBLE. THIS REVIEW OF STANDARDS IN ANY CASE WAS UNRELATED TO THE CURRENT STATE OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. MOREOVER, ANY FINAL DECISION WOULD BE MADE NOT ONLY BY THE GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE THE CONCURRENCE OF THE AFL-CIO AND THE EMPLOYERS.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS NOW UNLIKELY THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT COULD BE PERSUADED TO MAKE ANY DECISION REGARDING THE ADMISSION OF ILO EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE LABOR CONDITIONS IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS. ANY DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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